

Message Text

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47

ACTION SSM-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-11 ISO-00 SS-15 PM-04 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 AID-05 IGA-02 DOTE-00 EB-07

L-03 NSC-05 /087 W

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P R 151200Z JAN 76

FM AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0011

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMCONSUL OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION USUN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ALEXANDRIA 0025

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: SURFACE SHIPPING OFFLOAD SCHEDULE

REF: CAIRO 0386 (NOTAL)

1. FOLLOWING CONGEN/EMBASSY CONSULTATIONS IN CAIRO ON SUBJECT SCHEDULE (REFTEL) AND RETURN OF CONSUL GENERAL TO ALEXANDRIA, HE AND CONGEN SHIPPING OFFICER CALLED JAN 14 ON UNEF PORT MOVEMENT AND SHIPPING OFFICER TO EXPLORE EXPERIENCE THAT ORGANIZATION IS HAVING IN ON-GOING LOGISTIC SUPPORT OF SINAI OBSERVER CORPS. CANADIAN WARRANT OFFICER ACTING IN CHARGE (DETACHMENT CONSISTS OF 10 CANADIAN MILITARY, ONE UN FIELD SERVICE OFFICER AND THREE LOCALS) REPORTS EXPERIENCE OVER LAST TWO YEARS VERY SIMILAR TO CONGEN/EMBASSY EXPERIENCE IN TERMS OF FRUSTRATIONS OF DEALING WITH PORT AND CUSTOMS OFFICIALS, LONG-SHOREMEN, CLEARANCE PROCEDURES ET AL.

2. IF ANYTHING, UNEF HAVING WORSE TIME THAN WE, FOR CANADIAN OFFICER REPORTS MUCH DISTRUST OF "FOREIGN SOLDIERS" IN PORT AND SMALL DEGREE OF HARRASSMENT, PLUS (WRONG DECISION AND BAD LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PRECEDENT IN CONGEN VIEW) NECESSITY TO PAY "BAKSHEESH" (TIP

OR BRIBE) AT ALMOST EVERY STEP OF OFFLOADING, CLEARANCE AND ONWARD MOVEMENT PROCESS. HE SAID UNEF HAS HAD TO ESTABLISH "SPECIAL ACCOUNT" JUST FOR "BAKSHEESH" NONEY.

3. ONE POSITIVE ACHIEVEMENT OF LOCAL UNEF OFFICE IS SUCCESSFULLY ARRANGING TO HAVE FOODSTUFFS AND PX SUPPLIES, LIKE EMBASSY COMMISSARY SUBJECT TO MUCH PILFERAGE, DEPOSITED FROM SHIP'S HOLD DIRECTLY INTO WAITING UNEF TRUCKS. LOCAL CUSTOMS AND WAREHOUSE STAFF HAVE BEEN RESISTING CONGEN ATTEMPTS MAKE SIMILAR ARRANGEMENTS. UPON RETURN TO DUTY NEXT WEEK FROM UN HOSPITAL ISMAILIA, WE WILL DISCUSS WITH UN FIELD SERVICE OFFICER IN CHARGE OF LOCAL OFFICE HOW HE MADE THIS BREAKTHROUGH.

4. CANADIAN OFFICER DID EXPRESS WONDERMENT THAT USG DID NOT SIMPLY ADD ITS SINAI II SUPPORT REQUIREMENTS TO EXISTING UNEF LOGISTICS ESTABLISHMENT. WE SUGGESTED THAT PECULIAR REQUIREMENTS OF EGYPTIAN/ISRAELI AGREEMENT ON US OBSERVATION EFFORT MEANT TOTAL DISASSOCIATION FROM UNEF ACTIVITY EVEN IN ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS.

5. COMMENT: CONGEN CONFIDENT WAYS WILL BE FOUND TO MEET INITIAL AND ONGOING SINAI II LOGISTICS REQUIREMENTS. WE WOULD WARN, HOWEVER, THAT WE WILL REQUIRE LONGEST POSSIBLE ADVANCE NOTIFICATION OF CARGO CONTENT AND SHIP ARRIVAL SCHEDULES AND, MOST IMPORTANTLY, RECEIPT OF ORIGINAL BILLS OF LADING AS FAR IN ADVANCE AS POSSIBLE BEFORE SHIP ARRIVALS. OUR GREATEST PROBLEM IS, AS IS UNEF'S, BATTLING BUREAUCRACY AND CUTTING RED TAPE.
CHASE

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